

REMARKS

Responsive to the restriction requirement imposed under 35 USC 121 and 372, Applicants elect Group I, process claims 19-30, with traverse.

The Official Action indicates that the invention listed in Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the two inventions lack the same or corresponding special technical features.

Applicants respectfully disagree.

ANTKOWIAK discloses a method for increasing the consistency of pulp and displacing the contaminated liquid with wash liquid. The consistency prior to the pulp entering the displacement zone reaches 15% at the most. However at this consistency only inter-fiber liquid content has been affected and removed from the fiber cake. In order to remove the liquid from the fiber walls and the lumen, which is the aim of the present invention according to both the process and arrangement claims, substantially higher consistencies have to be reached.

As is mentioned in the present application a consistency of between 30 and 40% has to be reached before this intra-fiber liquid is removed in more substantial quantities. Such high consistencies are not described in the cited document, nor is it suggested that the intra-fiber should be removed and thus giving rise to such high consistencies.

Thus, both the process and our arrangement claims defines that the compressing of the fiber cake is done to such a degree that a substantial quantity of the liquid inside the fiber walls is expressed the independent claims define a special technical feature and relate therefore to a single general concept.

For the reasons noted above, Applicants believe that it is clear that the inventions used in Groups I and II do in fact relate to the same single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 and accordingly the restriction requirement is improper.

Reconsideration and withdraw of the restriction requirement are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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